

Anderson, Greta
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Name: Greta Anderson
Title: Botanist
Organization:
Email: desertwoman@sigmathree.com
Phone:
Address1: PO Box 1685
City: Bisbee
State: AZ
Zip: 85603
Country: USA

- 1 I am very concerned with the transmission lines proximity to Sycamore Canyon and other scenic and biologically diverse areas in the Atascosa Mountains. I wonder why TEP can't use the already significantly disturbed lands adjacent to I-19 for the transmission line. I am very concerned about the impact the transmission line will have on the area, and I am not impressed with the studies that have been done there on endangered species, etc. I think the transmission line will open a easy to follow corridor for illegal activities coming across and along the border.
- 2 I believe this project is ill-conceived and unnecessary, and I suggest the no action alternative.

Thanks,
Greta Anderson

Comment No. 1

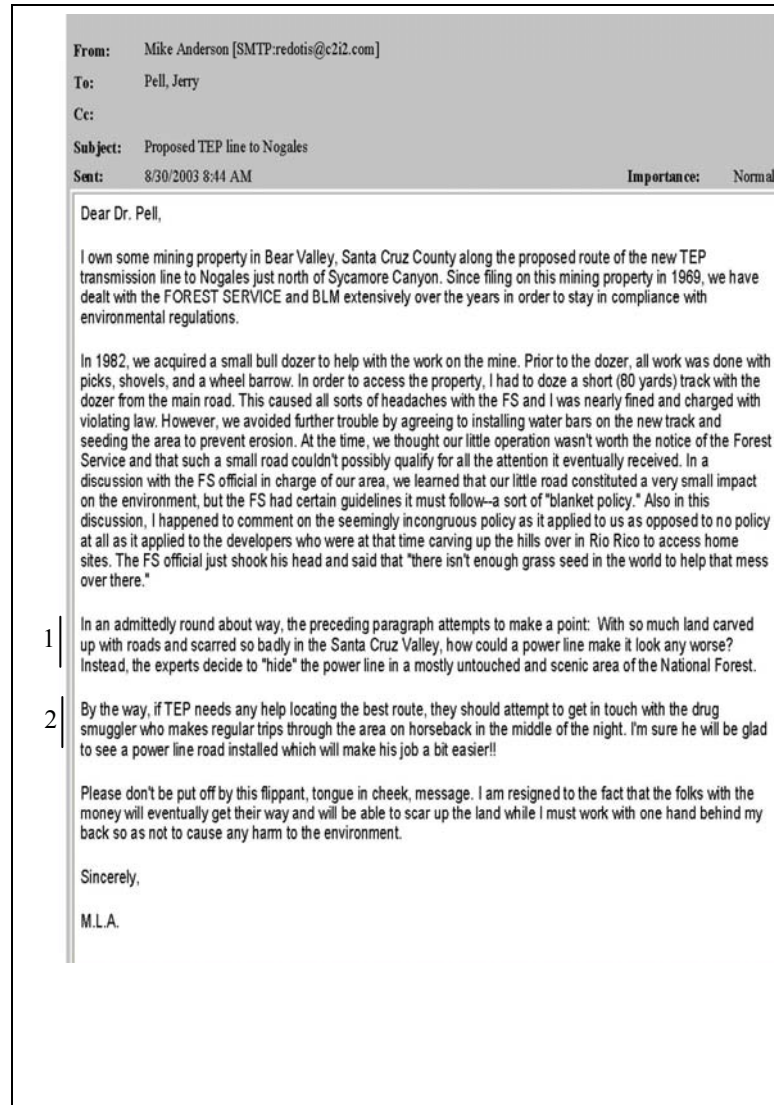
Sections 3.2 and 4.2 present a description of the existing visual resources (including the Atascosa Mountains and Sycamore Canyon) and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project. Likewise, Sections 3.3 and 4.3 present a description of the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources.

Due to visual impacts through densely populated areas, and the potential impacts to cultural resources, the I-19 Corridor was eliminated from further analysis as viable action alternative (see Section 2.1.5 of the Final EIS).

Comment No. 2

The Federal agencies have revised Sections 4.1.1, Land Use; Section 4.12, Transportation; and Chapter 5, Cumulative Impacts of the Final EIS based on the U.S. Border Patrol's response (USBP 2004) to the Federal agencies' request regarding illegal immigration and law enforcement activities in the proposed project vicinity. The U.S. Border Patrol's response generally re-enforced the information on which the relevant analysis in the Draft EIS was based. The U.S. Border Patrol stated that the roads associated with the construction and maintenance of the proposed project would contribute to an increase in illegal immigrant and narcotic smugglers in the area and affect U.S. Border Patrol operations. The effects of these activities are reflected in the Final EIS in the sections listed above.

Anderson, Mike
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Comment No. 1

Section 3.2 presents a description of the existing visual resources and Section 4.2 analyzes the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including impacts to the Coronado National Forest.

Comment No. 2

The Federal agencies have revised Sections 4.1.1, Land Use; Section 4.12, Transportation; and Chapter 5, Cumulative Impacts of the Final EIS based on the U.S. Border Patrol's response (USBP 2004) to the Federal agencies' request regarding illegal immigration, drug smuggling, and law enforcement activities in the proposed project vicinity. The U.S. Border Patrol's response generally re-enforced the information on which the relevant analysis in the Draft EIS was based. The U.S. Border Patrol stated that the roads associated with the construction and maintenance of the proposed project would contribute to an increase in illegal immigrant and narcotic smugglers in the area and affect U.S. Border Patrol operations. The effects of these activities are reflected in the Final EIS in the sections listed above.

Anderson, Walt
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Walt Anderson
1964 Sherwood Drive
Prescott AZ 86303-5650
(928)445-7470
geolobo@cableone.net

October 9, 2003

Dr. Jerry Pell
Office of Fossil Energy
US Dept. of Energy
Washington DC 20585

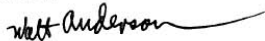
Dear Dr. Pell:

I would like to comment on the Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission Line DEIS.

- 1 I am very opposed to the "preferred" Western or Crossover Routes, which would severely damage open space and natural values that I appreciate. I would like to see the citizens' proposed wilderness area be established in the areas concerned. I am also opposed to the large 345 kV line as proposed; I prefer a smaller 115kV line along existing corridors. I do not believe
- 2 the large line or the proposed routes through the Tumacacori Highlands would serve the needs of residents of Santa Cruz County or Arizona.
- 3 I ask that you withdraw the current draft EIS and create a new one with a smaller line along existing utility corridors or a locally run power plant.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,



Walt Anderson

Comment No. 1

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 present a description of land use and recreation, and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Comment No. 2

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. Likewise, a smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. (Refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis.)

Anderson, Walt
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Walt Anderson
1964 Sherwood Drive
Prescott AZ 86303-5650
(928)445-7470
geolobo@cableone.net

October 9, 2003

Sue Kozacek
Acting Forest Supervisor
Coronado National Forest
300 W. Congress
Tucson AZ 85701

Dear Ms. Kozacek:

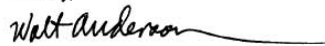
I would like to comment on the **Tucson Electric Power Sahuarita-Nogales Transmission Line DEIS and Forest Plan Amendments**.

1 I am very opposed to the "preferred" Western or Crossover Routes proposed by TEP for a powerline, which would severely damage open space and natural values that I appreciate in the national forest. I would like to see the citizens' proposed wilderness area be established in the areas concerned within the Tumacacori Highlands. This is an incredible area that I value for primitive recreation, as well as for wildlife values that transcend my own desires to get out there.

2 I urge you to deny any special use permits for the Western and Crossover Routes. You need to protect the natural values of the area, and that means *no more new roads!* Road density is one of the best predictors of local extirpation of sensitive wildlife species, and the area already has too many roads. Please do not allow amendments that would weaken the forest plan and endanger the values that the forest already has.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,



Walt Anderson

Comment No. 1

Sections 3.1 and 4.1 present a description of land use and recreation, and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project.

Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including potential impacts to wildlife.

Comment No. 2

As stated in Section 4.12, Transportation, TEP would close 1.0 mi (1.6 km) of existing classified road for every 1.0 mi (1.6 km) of proposed road to be used in the operation or long-term maintenance of the proposed project, such that road density on the Coronado National Forest would not be affected. The Tumacacori EMA of the Coronado National Forest in and of itself does not exceed road density limits set forth in the Forest Plan. Road density limits set forth in the Forest Plan are for the Coronado National Forest as a whole, not for individual land units or EMAs within the Coronado National Forest.

Analysis of the proposed amendments to the Forest Plan associated with the proposed project is contained in Appendix H.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including potential impacts to sensitive wildlife species.

Artley, Dick
Page 1 of 2

DEIS Comments for Tucson Electric Power's Proposed Powerline

From: dartley@camasdsl.com
[SMTP:dartley@camasdsl.com]
To: Pell, Jerry
Cc:

Subject: DEIS Comments for Tucson Electric Power's Proposed Powerline
Sent: 10/9/2003 8:06 PM
Importance: Normal

Dr. Jerry Pell
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy (FE-27)
1000 Independence Avenue. SW
Washington, DC 20585
Dear Dr. Pell,

1 I am writing to urge you to withdraw the current draft
Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson Electric
Power's (TEP) proposed 345 kilovolt powerline
immediatly. TEP's proposed "Western Route" and
2 alternative "Crossover Route" would forever destroy the
beautiful, scenic and irreplaceable landscape of the
Tumacacori Highlands. This area contains several roadless
areas as well as a citizen's proposed Wilderness area.

3 The DEIS is inadequate and violates the National
Environmental Policy Act, because it does not address
important alternatives to TEP's powerline which would

Comment No. 1

The commentor's opinion that the Draft EIS should be withdrawn is noted.

Comment No. 2

Sections 3.2 and 4.2 describe existing visual resources and analyze potential impacts to these resources, including potential impacts to the Tumacacori Mountains and the Tumacacori EMA of the Coronado National Forest.

Sections 3.1, Land Use, and 3.12, Transportation, discuss the IRAs within the Coronado National Forest. Sections 4.1, Land Use, and 4.12, Transportation, evaluate potential impacts to IRAs.

Section 5.2.4 acknowledges the citizen-initiated proposal for an addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Comment No. 3

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal, as required by NEPA. The Federal agencies do not think the Draft EIS needs to be re-issued.

Artley, Dick
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3
cont.

provide reliable service without destroying our environmental and cultural heritage. Also, the DEIS fails to adequately analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

Our energy policy should be based on serving the public interest (from both an energy availability and environmental standpoint), not corporate private profits. The DOE must issue a new and improved DEIS which fully and rigorously explores all available options and honestly explores the environmental impacts of each.

Sincerely,
Dick Artley
415 East North 2nd
Grangeville, Idaho 83530

Comment No. 3 (continued)

Potential economic benefit to TEP from the proposed project is outside the scope of the EIS.

Arush, Larry
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Forwarded by Susan K Kozacek/R3/USDAFS on
10/16/2003 05:14 PM -----
tdmusic@earthlink.net
10/09/2003 11:03 PM

To: skozacek@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson
Electric Power's
proposed 345 kilovolt powerline

Ms. Sue Kozacek
Coronado National Forest
Federal Building, 300 West Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Ms. Kozacek,

1 I am writing to urge you to withdraw the current draft
Environmental Impact Statement for Tucson Electric
Power's proposed 345 kilovolt powerline.

2 I urge DOE to issue a new draft EIS which fully and
rigorously explores all available options--including a local
power plant and smaller power lines which would not
serve Mexico--to meet the important public interest of
providing reliable energy service to Santa Cruz County,
while minimizing environmental impact.

Sincerely,

Larry Arush
2001 Pittman
Los Angeles, CA 90016

Comment No. 1

The commentor's opinion that the Draft EIS should be withdrawn is noted.

Comment No. 2

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. Likewise, a smaller transmission line in lieu of the proposed 345-kV line would not meet the international interconnection aspect of TEP's proposal, and therefore is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. (Refer also to Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis.)

Austin, Valer
Page 1 of 2

From: Dinah Wright [SMTP:dwright@elcoronadoranch.net]
To: Pell, Jerry
Cc:

Subject: Sahuarita?Nogales transmission line.
Sent: 10/13/2003 12:42 PM, Importance: High
El Coronado Ranch
12626 East Turkey Creek Road
Pearce, AZ 85625
(520) 824-3566

To: Dr. Jerry Pell
Office of Coal and Power
Washington DC
October 13, 2003

Dear Dr. Pell.

1 The Tucson electric power Sahuarita/Nogales transmission line C.E.I.S. is under consideration at this time. At present the proposed rout for the line goes through wilderness area, special approval will be needed before it is installed.

2 I am against the planned rout because I feel we are losing wilderness areas to development of one kind or another. This plan would open up the wilderness with temporary roads that would disturb wildlife, interfere with migrating birds, leave a scar on the landscape and introduce exotic weeds that would take over disturbed areas. Finally Illegal boarder crossers would find this passageway conveniently marked by huge power poles!

Comment No. 1

As explained in Section 3.1, Land Use, each of the three study corridors cross a portion of the Coronado National Forest, and each would require a Forest Plan amendment (see Appendix H). However, none of the study corridors go through a wilderness area classified as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System (Sections 3.1.1 and 4.1.1 address the nearest such area, the Pajarita Wilderness).

Comment No. 2

Sections 3.1, Land Use, and 3.12, Transportation, discuss the existing roads and IRAs within the Coronado National Forest. Sections 4.1, Land Use, and 4.12, Transportation, evaluate potential impacts related to roads.

Sections 3.3 and 4.3 discuss the existing biological resources and analyze the potential impacts to these resources from the proposed project, including potential impacts to migratory birds and impacts from invasive (exotic) species. Section 4.3.2 states that the long-term reductions in biological activity (e.g., lack of vegetation in an area due to construction traffic) tend to be more pronounced in arid areas such as the proposed project area where biological communities recover very slowly from disturbances.

The Federal agencies have revised Sections 4.1.1, Land Use; Section 4.12, Transportation; and Chapter 5, Cumulative Impacts of the Final EIS based on the U.S. Border Patrol's response (USBP 2004) to the Federal agencies' request regarding illegal immigration and law enforcement activities in the proposed project vicinity. The U.S. Border Patrol's response generally re-enforced the information on which the relevant analysis in the Draft EIS was based. The U.S. Border Patrol stated that the roads associated with the construction and maintenance of the proposed project would contribute to an increase in illegal immigrant and narcotic smugglers in the area and affect U.S. Border Patrol operations. The effects of these activities are reflected in the Final EIS in the sections listed above.

Austin, Valer
Page 2 of 2

3 | Please find an alternative rout and leave the wilderness area in tact.

Thank You,
Valer Austin

Comment No. 3

Refer to the response to Comment 1 above regarding wilderness areas.

Section 1.2 of the Final EIS explains the roles of the Federal agencies in developing alternatives for the proposed project. Where an applicant seeks a permit for a particular business project, such as the case with TEP's proposed project, the Federal agencies generally limit their review of alternatives to those that would satisfy the applicant's proposal and decide whether that proposal is or is not worthy of receiving a permit. The Federal agencies do not review alternatives that are not within the scope of the applicant's proposal. Similarly, the agencies do not direct the applicant to alter its proposal; instead, the agencies decide whether a permit is appropriate for the proposal as the applicant envisions it. It is not for the agency to run the applicant's business and to change the applicant's proposal, but only to evaluate the environmental effects of the applicant's business proposal as offered. Accordingly, the EIS evaluates a reasonable range of alternatives, which include the full spectrum of alternatives that would satisfy the applicant's proposal.

Barr, Jim
Page 1 of 3

From: Jim Barr [barrjnb@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2003 6:34 PM
To: Pell, Jerry
Subject: Draft EIS (DOE/EIS-0336)

Dear Sirs:

As a power user in Nogales, I would like to say that I am
in favor of a
345kv line.

I believe that the power will be needed and the reliability
will be improved and the amount of power losses through
transmission lines would be reduced.

My comments on the draft environmental statement are
mainly concerned with the "NO ACTION" alternative.
The "no action" alternative assumes that nothing will be
done if the none of the three alternatives are selected. If
none of the three alternatives are selected, I can think of
some likely results:

1. PNM has suspended the pursuit of the 345 kv line
from Palo Verde Nucluer Power Plant until the TEP line
approval runs its course. With the selection of the "no
action" alternative, PNM likely will continue its proposed
powerline, then we will be at this same point two years
later. This line being longer, would have a greater
environmental impact.

2. The mandate for a line for a second transmission line
would be retracted by the Corporation Commission.
2a. Santa Cruz County would exist with the limited
amount of power now available.
2b. The existing distribution network and existing
generators would be upgrade, at some environmental cost.
2c. A new generator would be sited, at some
environmental cost.

Comment No. 1

The Federal agencies note the commentor's support for the 345-kV transmission line.

Comment No. 2

The No Action Alternative only analyzes reasonably foreseeable actions that may occur if the proposed project does not occur; none of the actions suggested by the commentor fall into this category, and thus are not analyzed under the No Action Alternative.

Federal agencies cannot speculate on the actions of the ACC, or any local actions in response to ACC orders, such as additions or upgrades to existing distribution networks or generators (or a new power plant).

As described in Chapter 5 of the EIS, the Applicant for the proposed PNM transmission line project has recently stated the intention to withdraw the Presidential Permit Application for that project. As such, that project is no longer reasonably foreseeable and is not assessed in the cumulative impact section of this TEP Final EIS.

Comment No. 3

Section 4.5.2 discusses potential socioeconomic impacts from the No Action Alternative. Refer to the response to Comment 2 above regarding the No Action Alternative.

Comment No. 4

Refer to the response to Comment 2 above regarding analysis of PNM's proposed project and a new power plant.

Barr, Jim
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Section 4.5.2 says:

4.5.2 Socioeconomic Impacts from the No Action Alternative Under the No Action Alternative, TEP would not build the proposed transmission line and associated facilities as proposed in this EIS. No changes to the existing employment levels would occur beyond the existing trends (described in Section 3.5); no new income or tax revenue would be generated beyond existing trends; and no additional demands would be placed on community services in the ROI beyond existing trends as a result of the proposed project.

3 I believe that the Socioeconomic impact of the No Action Alternative would have a greater effect on "existing trends" than any of the three specific alternative. The whole point in the Corporation Commission mandating a 2nd powerline was because of the impact of not acting would have on our community.

4 Chapter 5 discusses the Reasonable Forseeable Action of the PNM transmission main happening in "addition" to the TEP line. I see this as one or the other but not both 345kv lines, therefore the affect of only a PNM line should be under the No Action Alternative.

Also the construction of a new power plant should be address under the No Action Alternative.

5 I attended the Draft Environmental Assessment meeting at Green Valley on September 25, 2003. Several of the speakers that voiced the opposition to any of the three proposed alignment of the 345 kv line, suggested they would be in favor of a local power plant. My understanding is that this power plant would have to be connected to the power grid with a sufficient size

Comment No. 5

A new power plant in Nogales is not a viable alternative to a new, second transmission line (part of TEP's proposal). Therefore, the alternative of a new power plant is not evaluated in detail in this EIS. The Federal agencies agree that there are negative environmental impacts associated with construction and operation of a power plant. Section 2.1.5, Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Further Analysis, has been revised to describe the types of environmental impacts that could be associated with a new power generating facility.

Comment No. 6

The calculation of power loss is beyond the scope of the EIS (the EIS analyzes the potential environmental impacts resulting from the proposed project or the No Action Alternative). Refer to the response to Comment 2 above for discussion of the No Action Alternative.

Barr, Jim
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cont.

transmission line. The net result is the power plant option would not eliminate the power line, but instead require the new electrical transmission line plus a new gas line and a watermain.

The power plant would adversely affect the groundwater, air quality and noise.

Finally the 345 kv line would be nine times more efficient than the 115 kv line. Since: Power = Volts times Amps tripling the voltage will result in 1/3 the amps for transmitting the same amount of power and since: Power loss = Resistance times Amps squared

For a given amount of power, the higher voltage line will carry 1/3 the amperage, resulting in 1/9 the power loss.

The amount of the power loss should be quantified for each alternative and the environmental impact of the additional power generation required for the No Action alternative should be discussed.

6

I believe the Az Corporation Commission was correct in mandating a second power line, but after reading the draft Environmental Impact Statement, the No Action Alternative looked best. After thinking about it I believe No Action may be the worst alternative.

I look forward to seeing how the impact statement changes as a result of these meetings.

Thanks,

Jim Barr
1605 N. Industrial Park Dr.
Nogales, Arizona 85621
barr@hotmail.com